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DIGEST OF OPINIONS
ON
FLUORIDATION

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Compiled by the HEALTH LEAGUE OF CANADA,
Fluoridation Committee, based on the
replies to a questionnaire forwarded
to Heads of the Departments of
Preventive Medicine in 92
North American Universities

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(This report was compiled at the request of
the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities)

June, 1954

Health League of Canada
111 Avenue Road, Toronto

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE

APRIL 10, 1890, CONCERNING THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE STATE

AND THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE PEOPLE

IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & COMPANY, 1890.

1890

THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE STATE AND THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE PEOPLE

ALBANY: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & COMPANY, 1890.

DIGEST OF OPINIONS ON FLUORIDATION

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C O N T E N T S

1. REPORT ON THE SURVEY
2. LIST OF UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED BY REPLIES.
3. QUOTATIONS FROM HEADS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE DEPARTMENTS.
4. QUOTATIONS FROM SOME PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.
5. LIST OF GROUPS ENDORSING FLUORIDATION.
6. SOME READILY AVAILABLE AND AUTHORITATIVE BOOKS ON FLUORIDATION.
7. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HEALTH LEAGUE OF CANADA.

REPORT OF THE FLUORIDATION COMMITTEE OF THE HEALTH LEAGUE OF CANADA
BASED ON A SURVEY OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
IN NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

(June 18, 1954)

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In order to gain authoritative and independent opinions on the controversial subject of fluoridation, the Fluoridation Committee of the Health League of Canada forwarded a questionnaire to the Heads of every University Preventive Medicine Department in Canada and the United States. It was felt that opinions from this source would be free from economic, political and "faddist" pressure, and would be based on objective research into the subject.

This study was begun on May 6. The Health League of Canada adopted a resolution June 15, endorsing the principle of fluoridation. The endorsement was based on the results of the survey, which is now presented as the only existing compilation of academic opinion in the preventive medicine field in North America.

The questions asked in the survey were as follows:

- "1. Your opinion of the value of fluoridation.
2. Your opinion as to whether there is any evidence of fluoridation being likely to do any damage to the human organism if used in water supplies as recommended by the United States Public Health Service and other organizations.
3. Other remarks in connection with fluoridation."

It is significant that out of 79 departments of preventive medicine responding to the survey, not one opposed the principle of fluoridation. 73 departments expressed themselves more or less emphatically in favor of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries without doing harm to the human organism; six claimed incomplete familiarity with the subject and declined to express opinions; one expressed a desire for caution and further study but was not opposed to fluoridation.

Following is a list of the Universities whose Preventive Medicine Departments responded to the Health League survey:

REPORT OF THE FLUORIDATION COMMITTEE OF THE HEALTH LEAGUE OF CANADA
BASED ON A SURVEY OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
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This study was begun on May 6. The Health League of Canada adopted a resolution June 12, endorsing the principle of fluoridation. The endorsement was based on the results of the survey, which is now presented as the only existing compilation of academic opinion in the preventive medicine field in North America.

The questions asked in the survey were as follows:

"1. Your opinion of the value of fluoridation.

2. Your opinion as to whether there is any evidence of fluoridation being likely to do any damage to the human organism if used in water supplies as recommended by the United States Public Health Service and other organizations.

3. Other remarks in connection with fluoridation."

It is significant that out of 73 departments of preventive medicine responding to the survey, not one opposed the principle of fluoridation. 12 departments expressed themselves more or less emphatically in favor of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries without doing harm to the human organism; six claimed no personal familiarity with the subject and declined to express opinions; one expressed a desire for caution and further study but was not opposed to fluoridation.

Following is a list of the Universities whose Preventive Medicine Departments responded to the Health League survey:

II.

Compiled by the Health League of Canada

June, 1954

THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN
THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES HAVE ENDORSED
FLUORIDATION OF WATER AS A MEANS OF
PREVENTING CARIES

Albany Medical College - Albany, N.Y.
Boston University - Boston
Baylor University - Houston, Texas
Chicago Medical School - Chicago, Illinois
College of Medical Evangelists - Loma Linda, California
Columbia University - New York, N.Y.
Cornell University Medical College - New York
Creighton University - Omaha, Nebraska
Duke University - Durham, N.C.
George Washington University - Washington, D.C.
Hahnemann Medical College - Philadelphia, Pa.
Harvard University Medical School - Boston, Mass.
Howard University - Washington, D.C.
Indiana University - Indianapolis, Ind.
Johns Hopkins University - Baltimore, Md.
Laval University - Quebec, Que.
Loyola University (Illinois State Medical Society)
Stitch School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill.
Marquette University - Milwaukee, Wis.
Medical College of Virginia - Richmond, Va.
Meharry Medical College - Nashville, Tenn.
McGill University - Montreal, Que.
New York Medical College - New York, N.Y.
New York University College of Medicine - New York, N.Y.
Northwestern University Medical School - Chicago, Ill.
Ohio State University - Columbus, Ohio.
Queen's University - Kingston, Ont.
Stanford University School of Medicine - San Francisco, Cal.
State University of New York - Syracuse, N.Y.
Temple University - Philadelphia, Pa.
Tulane University of Louisiana - New Orleans, La.
University of Alabama - Birmingham, Alabama.
University of Alberta - Edmonton, Alta.
University of Arkansas - Little Rock, Ark.
University of British Columbia - Vancouver, B.C.
University of Buffalo School of Medicine - Buffalo, N.Y.
University of California Medical School - Los Angeles, Cal.
University of Chicago - Chicago, Ill.
University of Cincinnati - Cincinnati, Ohio.
University of Colorado - Denver, Col.
University of Illinois - College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois.
Prof. Dept. of Public Health
Assoc. Prof. of Medicine in charge of preventive
University of Kansas - Kansas City - Kansas. medicine
University of Louisville - Louisville, Ky.
University of Manitoba - Winnipeg, Man.

THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN
THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES HAVE ENDORSED
FLUORIDATION OF WATER AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING CARIES - 2

University of Maryland - Baltimore, Md.
University of Mississippi - University, Mississippi
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, Michigan
University of Minnesota - Minneapolis
University of Montreal - Montreal, Que.
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, N.C.
University of Oklahoma - Oklahoma City
University of Oregon - Portland, Oregon
University of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, Pa.
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, Pa.
University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon, Sask.
University of Southern California - Los Angeles, Cal.
University of Tennessee - Memphis, Tenn.
University of Texas - Dallas, Texas.
University of Texas - Galveston, Texas.
University of Toronto - Toronto, Ont.
University of Utah - Salt Lake City, Utah.
University of Vermont - Burlington, Vt.
University of Virginia - Charlottesville, Ky.
University of Washington - Seattle, Wash.
University of Western Ontario - London, Ont.
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Wis.
Washington University - St. Louis, Missouri.
Wayne University College of Medicine - Detroit, Michigan.
West Virginia University - Morgantown, W.Va.
Western Reserve University - Cleveland, Ohio.
Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, Pa.
Yale University - New Haven, Conn.
Louisiana State University - New Orleans, La.

Departments of Preventive Medicine of the following Universities
do not feel qualified to express an opinion at the moment.

Emory University - Atlanta, Georgia.
Tufts College Medical School - Boston, Mass.
University of Missouri - Columbia, Mo.
University of Rochester - Rochester, N.Y.
University of South Dakota - Vermillion, S.D.

NO Department of Preventive Medicine conceded that Fluoridation
would not prevent Caries.

NO Department of Preventive Medicine expressed an opinion that
Fluoridation in proper quantities would harm the human organism.

THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN
THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES HAVE ENDORSED
FLUORINATION OF WATER AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING CARIES - 2

University of Maryland - Baltimore, Md.
University of Mississippi - University, Mississippi
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, Michigan
University of Minnesota - Minneapolis
University of Montreal - Montreal, Que.
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, N.C.
University of Oklahoma - Oklahoma City
University of Oregon - Portland, Oregon
University of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, Pa.
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, Pa.
University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon, Sask.
University of Southern California - Los Angeles, Cal.
University of Tennessee - Memphis, Tenn.
University of Texas - Dallas, Texas
University of Texas - Galveston, Texas
University of Toronto - Toronto, Ont.
University of Utah - Salt Lake City, Utah
University of Vermont - Burlington, Vt.
University of Virginia - Charlottesville, Va.
University of Washington - Seattle, Wash.
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Wis.
Wayne University - Detroit, Mich.
West Virginia University - Morgantown, W. Va.
Western Reserve University - Cleveland, Ohio
Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia, Pa.
Yale University - New Haven, Conn.
Louisiana State University - New Orleans, La.

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Emory University - Atlanta, Georgia.
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University of South Dakota - Vermillion, S.D.

No Department of Preventive Medicine concurred that fluoridation
would not prevent caries.

No Department of Preventive Medicine expressed an opinion that
fluoridation in proper quantities would harm the human organism.

III

QUOTATIONS FROM SOME OF THE LETTERS RECEIVED FROM PREVENTIVE MEDICINE DEPARTMENTS IN NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

H.J. SHAUGHNESSY, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS:

"I see no indication of any damage done to the human organism if fluorine is used in the water supplies in accordance with the recommendations of the U.S. Public Health Service and similar organizations.

It seems to me that adding fluorides to the water is merely a matter of making up a deficiency which occurs in some natural waters and not in others. Therefore if fluoridation is properly done and properly controlled there should be no ill effects but only a beneficial effect such as occurs from the ingestion of water which naturally contains fluorine of the proper amounts."

.....

IRA HISCOCK, Sc.D., YALE UNIVERSITY (telegram)

"This protection for our area which is low in essential product is regarded as wise and economical and a Connecticut Childrens Institution results obtained over period of years gives striking evidence of value in reduced dental problems. Our School of Public Health at Yale concurs with many professional bodies and with other groups studying problem objectively and with understanding that fluoridation of water supplies according to recommended proposals by health officials is urgently needed in many parts of North America. Essential for economy, efficiency, comfort, health and happiness."

.....

KIRK T. MOSLEY, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA.

"I am well impressed with the evidence which shows that the proper amount of fluorides in the water supplies will greatly decrease the incidence of dental caries among the population that used this source of water supply.

I have not seen any evidence of damage to the human organism outside of mottled enamel when a water supply naturally contained a great deal more fluorides that is recommended by the United States Public Health Service.

I am impressed with the cheapness with which fluoridation may be added to a community's water supply.

I don't believe many people realize the significance of dental caries. Not only does the loss of teeth interfere a great deal with the enjoyment of food and probably also the digestion of food, but in addition carious teeth with their complications of abscesses often lead to other serious consequences of health. Certainly rheumatic fever patients have an additional hazard to their lives if their teeth are carious. Just how significant foci of infection are in bringing about ill health is unknown, but it is likely that in many instances such a condition might lead to a physical ailment."

.....

WILLIAM A. BRUMFIELD JR., M.D., STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

"You may be familiar with the studies carried out in this state in the cities of Kingston and Newburgh, the latter city having its water fluoridated, and the former serving as a control. The children in each of these cities have been subjected to searching, periodic examinations to elicit any untoward effects which might result from fluoridation. There has been none. On the other hand, the incidence of dental caries among children in the city of Newburgh has declined so significantly that it looked for a time that the citizens of Kingston would insist on the fluoridation of their water supply thus terminating these controlled studies.

In this state opposition to fluoridation has been spear-headed by various cults - for example the anti-vaccinationists and the chiropractors. There is a 'fly-by-night' dental group who are opposing fluoridation, at least to the extent of distributing an article opposing fluoridation, authored by a Scottish dentist (U.S. trained) whose competency in this field is a little more than questionable."

.....

GAYLORD W. ANDERSON, M.D., MAYO PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

"I have followed this subject with reasonable care. I know of few phases of medical science in which we have as inclusive evidence as we have of our ability to reduce the incidence of dental caries by regulation of the intake of fluoride. To my mind the evidence is conclusive that this intake can be achieved either through naturally occurring fluoride in the water supply or through the addition of carefully regulated amounts of sodium fluoride. This is a matter which should long since have passed the stage of controversy and should have become an established practice. Fluoridation is the most outstanding development we have ever had in the field of dental health."

.....

JAMES M. MATHER, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

"The use of fluoridated communal water supplies is the first realistic preventive approach to the solution of the problem of dental caries. Until the advent of fluoridation all efforts of the dental profession primarily have been directed towards the repair of damage already done. It is obvious that this approach has failed in that we are faced each year with a greater and greater backlog of dental disease. The dental manpower of Canada is physically unable to cope with the mass of dental disease present in our people. Thus our only hope is in some way to prevent the onset of dental caries. Fluoridation of communal water supplies represents the first significant advance in preventing dental decay."

.....

W.L. TREUTING, M.D., TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

"I know of no evidence having been presented at the time that fluoridation, when properly carried out and within the limits set as to concentration, is hazardous or will do damage to the human organism. I do not believe that studies will show injurious effect even after many years, based on our knowledge of the effects of fluoride in those areas where it naturally occurs in higher concentration than that recommended for caries prevention."

.....

H.E. PEARSON, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

"Fluoridation is now being adopted or rejected in the United States on an individual community basis. I believe this is a mistake. The principle is either sound or unsound, and the validity of the concept should not be subject to the caprices of local politics. I believe that the requirement for fluoridation of public water should be part of State law."

.....

ROBERT D. WRIGHT, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

"More than a million Americans drank fluoridated water for years before anyone was interested in the problem. According to the United States Public Health Service, those people showed no unusual mortality or morbidity. No one has yet established any danger factor in the consumption of water containing sodium fluoride in a concentration of one to two parts per million. On the other hand, the United States Public Health Service studies have demonstrated a definitely beneficial effect - decreased dental caries. When we can improve our health at such little cost and at no hazard, it seems folly not to do it."

.....

CARL A. NAU, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

"I live in an area where some adverse remarks have been made concerning potential harm that may be done. I have discussed this with people who are familiar with the background of these remarks and am confident that the remarks are based upon invalid evidence, cannot be proven and are unfounded. I am a strong believer in the addition of fluorides to drinking water, as recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service and other organizations. I believe this practice should be continued and expanded."

.....

ERNEST L. STEBBINS, M.D., THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

"In my opinion the value of fluoridation in the prevention of dental caries has been adequately established. There is no evidence that fluoridation of water supply, as recommended for the prevention of dental caries, produces any adverse physiological or pathological effect."

.....

G.E. HOBBS, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

"I believe it has been established beyond reasonable doubt that fluoridation will bring about an extensive reduction in the incidence of dental caries and that the mass use in the water supply is the only practical method of bringing this about.

In this area, Stratford has had fluoridation naturally in its water and there have been no reports in that area suggesting any deterioration in general health. In addition, the town of Aylmer has a fluorine content in their water of 1.2 ppm. and I can say the same about this area."

.....

GEORGE A. DENISON, M.D., MEDICAL COLLEGE OF ALABAMA

"To get 1 ppm. of sodium fluoride, 18.3 pounds is added to each 1,000,000 gallons of water. To get a toxic dose in an eight ounce glass would require the addition of 4 tons per 1,000,000 gallons.

Fluoridation means better teeth for all children, no matter how poor. It means fewer bridges, false teeth and plates for the generations to follow."

.....

GLEN R. LEYMASTER, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

"Whenever the discussion of fluoridated water arises, it is immediately clouded by discussions of possible dangers to the human organism. Much of the bitter discussion of fluoridation has centered around this term 'possibilities'. I can only say that in my opinion these possibilities are extremely remote, and at the present stage of our knowledge it is far more likely that the beneficial effects from fluoridation will far outweigh the possible ill effects. Those who speak vaguely of the damage to the human organism and have published information which would suggest damage to the human organism in terms of heart disease, etc., have always been extremely vague in their data as far as I have been able to determine. I have seen absolutely no good scientific studies which bear out the claim that high incidence of human disease is associated with high levels of fluoride in the water with the exception of mottled enamel which is well recognized as being a manifestation of high levels of fluoride in the water."

.....

PAUL B. CORNELLY, M.D., HOWARD UNIVERSITY

"The District of Columbia has gone through a period of deciding about the fluoridation of its water supply. There was some agitation in the community against it; however the authorities decided to fluoridate the water supply. This has been in effect for a number of months and there has been, to my knowledge, no adverse criticism."

.....

ADOLPH WEINZIRL, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

"If 'mottled enamel' is defined as damage, I know that this occurs when the fluorine content exceeds considerably the amount needed for caries prevention. A program of dental caries prevention through fluoridation of public water supplies is an exceptionally sound public health proposal. The great need for caries prevention can be demonstrated currently, as well as for previous years, by the results of school child health examinations and can be appreciated by the amount of dental care most people experience. One possible unforeseen consequence of fluoridation might be the technological unemployment of dentists but this apparently is so unlikely that the dental profession has professed no alarm but rather has supported such programs."

.....

CLAYTON G. LOOSLI, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

"In our city there are only the few religious fanatics who are opposing (fluoridation) for the city of Chicago, as it has been endorsed by all the leading local and national medical societies and public health departments."

.....

JOHN W. BROWN, M.D., UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

"The evidence in favor of fluoridation of water for the prevention of dental caries has been strengthened with the passage of time and increased experience. My opinion is reflected by my action in personally adding sodium fluoride to our son's formula, before the Madison water supply was so treated, more than six years ago."

.....

QUOTATIONS FROM VARIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE
HAD EXPERIENCE WITH FLUORIDATION.

J. EARL SMITH, M.D., HEALTH COMMISSIONER, CITY OF ST. LOUIS, Mo.

"It is my considered opinion that fluoridation of water supplies is one of the truly great public health procedures of our time. This opinion is based on the accumulated scientific evidence that the addition of fluoride to water supplies in the recommended amount of one part fluoride to one million parts of water will prevent dental caries up to 66 per cent in children who have continuously drunk such water from birth through twelve years. The accumulated scientific evidence indicates that the anti-carries effect once obtained during infancy and childhood is a permanent one and lasts throughout life.

There is no scientific evidence that fluoridated water supplies containing the optimal amount of 1 ppm. will result in any damage to the human organism...Some of the 'better talents' among the opposition constantly refer to what 10-100-500 etc. parts per millions will do to yeast, rats, etc. It cannot be pointed out too often that we are recommending the addition of a trace amount of fluorine - one part fluorine to one million parts of water - not 2-3-50 or any other amount. This is of the essence in any scientific discussion of fluoridation, particularly when the opposition resorts to such emotional techniques as calling fluoridation "Operation Rat Poison."

.....

JOHN D. PORTERFILED, M.D., DIRECTOR OF HEALTH , STATE OF OHIO.

"In view of the rapid rate of dental caries formation in our population and the inability of the current and anticipated dental resources to correct these defects, a major preventive measure is the only answer. The evidence at hand seems to me to be conclusive that a large percentage of dental caries can be prevented by fluoridation.

I have examined all of the material which is available in this country on the question of toxic effects of fluorides in drinking water at the recommended levels. The only objections I find seem to be 'wild surmise' and I can find nothing which suggests the probability that fluorides will do physiologic damage if maintained at the levels recommended. It appears to me that the reactions of the dental structures are the most sensitive to the presence of this material and that establishing a level which will provide maximum caries formation reduction with minimum enamel mottling sets a value well within the toxic limits. There are, for example, villages in this state which for decades have had fluoride-containing water. Careful examination of morbidity and mortality statistics from these areas, in comparison with communities whose waters contain no fluoride offers no evidence of any increased hazard because of the fluoride content."

.....

Health Authorities -- 2

E.M. HOLMES JR., M.D., CITY OF RICHMOND, VA. (Professor of Community Medicine, Medical College of Virginia.

"The City of Richmond began fluoridation of its water supply on November 11, 1952. This was undertaken after thorough study and with the backing of all civic groups in the area such as: League of Women Voters, Federation of Parent-Teachers Association, Richmond Dental Society, Richmond Academy of Medicine, Richmond Area Community Council, Business and Professional Women's Group, and others. As a result, there is practically no opposition by individuals and none by any groups concerning the establishment of this procedure locally."

.....

E.R. KRUMBIEGEL, M.D., COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, CITY OF MILWAUKEE, WIS.

"Children who have regularly consumed water containing about one part per million of fluorides from the time of their birth until the twelfth year of age will, when 12-14 years old, manifest a DFM index from 60-65 per cent lower than that of children of the same age who have, for a comparable period of years, consumed water containing 0.1 part per million or less of fluoride."

.....

L.E. BURNEY, M.D., STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER, STATE OF INDIANA

"There is extensive literature on the pharmacology and toxicology of fluorides. These reports include laboratory investigations as well as studies conducted among people who have lived continuously in areas where the drinking water contains high concentrations of fluorides. Mortality studies have also been made in Indiana."

Accumulated experience provides no evidence that the prolonged ingestion of drinking water with a mean concentration of fluorides as recommended by U.S. Public Health Service has any harmful effect.

There are 1,104,000 persons living in 39 communities in Indiana now drinking fluoridated water. They represent 41 per cent of the people in the State who are available to a communal water supply."

.....

HERMAN E. HILLEBOE, M.D., COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, STATE OF NEW YORK

"Because water fluoridation has proved to be a safe and effective way to control dental caries, I have issued a statement of policy for this department recommending that all communities which can fluoridate their communal water supplies under adequate control measures should do so."

.....

Health Authorities -- 3

HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS, M.D., COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, BALTIMORE, M.D.

"It was the unanimous opinion of the leaders of the Baltimore medical profession and the state medical society, the Baltimore dental profession and the state dental society and the State and City Health Departments together with the professors of Medicine in the Johns Hopkins Medical School and the University of Maryland Medical School that fluoridation of the City Water Supply was desirable, harmless, and an important and needed public health procedure".

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V.

LIST OF SOME OF THE GROUPS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAVE ENDORSED THE PRINCIPLE OF FLUORIDATING COMMUNAL WATER SUPPLIES AS BOTH SAFE AND EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF DENTAL CARIES.

CANADA

The Canadian Medical Association

The Canadian Dental Association

The Toronto Academy of Medicine

The Canadian Society of Dentistry for Children

The Dental Public Health Committee of the Ontario Dental Association

The Executive Council of the Toronto Academy of Dentistry

The Canadian Public Health Association

The Ontario Public Health Association

The Health League of Canada

UNITED STATES

The American Medical Association

The American Dental Association

The American Association of Public Health Dentists

The American Public Health Association

The State and Territorial Health Officers Association

The National Research Council

The U.S. Public Health Service

The American Hospital Association

The American Nurses Association

The American Water Works Association

The State and Territorial Public Health Dentists

The Commission on Chronic Illness.

THE FLUORIDATION CONTROVERSY.

The American Dental Association has published a booklet entitled "Fluoridation Facts" which discusses nearly all the objections raised by opponents of fluoridation. This booklet, along with a kit of other informative material concerning fluoridation, may be obtained from the American Dental Association, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago, Ill.

There are two principle objections which have been raised with great fanfare by the anti-fluoridationists since publication of the above-mentioned booklet, and ballyhooed to a certain extent as "new evidence."

1. A group in Brantford, Ont., which fluoridates its water supply, recently organized to protest the "unpleasant taste" of the water. A number of citizens previously neutral or in favor of fluoridation were persuaded to concede that the water did, in fact, have a noticeable taste.

ANSWER: One of the principle objections raised by those anti-fluoridationists with some claim to scientific knowledge is that fluorine has no taste and therefore toxic concentrations cannot be detected. Actually the source of Brantford water is such that it had an unpleasant taste long before fluoridation, owing to contamination. The addition of chlorine makes the water drinkable but has not improved the taste. Fluorine is indeed, tasteless (and certainly so in a concentration of 1 p.p.m.)

2. Because of the significant lack of any evidence of any physiological damage in areas where water is naturally fluoridated the opponents have suggested the possibility that there is a difference between natural and artificial fluoridation.

ANSWER: Natural fluoridation is a hit-or-miss process in which running water picks up fluorine from deposits just as it picks up mud. A child can get the same effect by spraying fluoride deposits with a garden hose. The only difference between natural and artificial fluoridation is that the latter can be controlled.

Other excellent books on the subject of fluoridation which are readily available are "Water Fluoridation" published by the St. Louis Medical Society, 3839 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, 8, Mo., and "Facts on Fluoridation", published by the Canadian Dental Association 234 St. George St., Toronto.

The following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Executive of the Health League of Canada in Toronto on Tuesday, June 15th, 1954.

RESOLVED that in view of the overwhelming mass of evidence received by our Committee on Fluoridation from all over North America emphasizing the importance of fluoridation of communal water supplies for the prevention of caries and also of overwhelming evidence to the effect that fluoridation in approved quantities does no harm to the human organism, this association on receiving the report of its Fluoridation Committee immediately goes on record as endorsing, without qualification, the fluoridation of communal water supplies in quantities recommended by official Departments of Health.

